

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-14 (the claims of the original *Cantoni et al.* '166 patent<sup>1</sup>), without prejudice.

Please amend claims 17 and 25 as follows.

--17. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the message includes a destination address field that is checked for a match with an address associated with the destination, and

wherein the address field is transmitted in the message segment of the first slot used to transmit the message.

25. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 23 wherein the message includes a destination address field and wherein the segmentation machine is arranged to transmit the address field in the message segment of the first slot of the message.

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<sup>1</sup> *Cantoni et al.* U.S. Patent No. 5,050,166, issued September 17, 1991, for TRANSFER OF MESSAGES IN A MULTIPLEXED SYSTEM.